

REMARKS

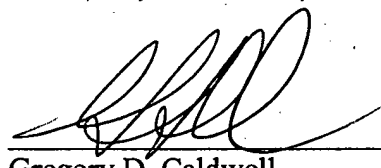
By this preliminary amendment, claims 1-27, 29-34, 36-38, and 40-42 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-44 are pending. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date:

1/21/04



Gregory D. Caldwell
Reg. No. 39,926

12400 Wilshire Blvd., 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
Telephone: (503) 684-6200

GDC/VHA

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